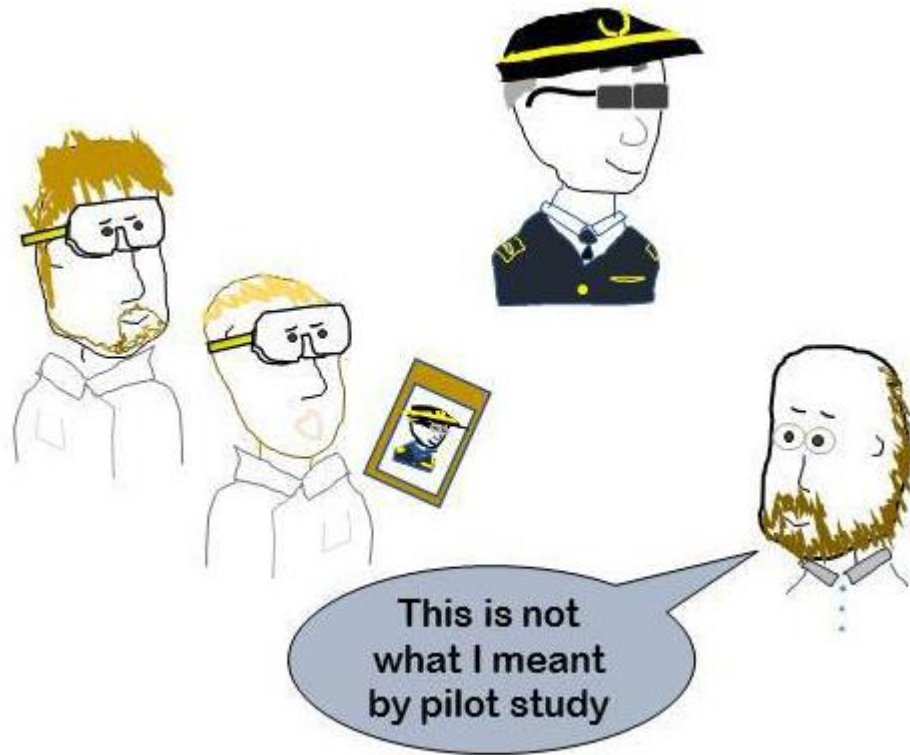


Pilot Study

-Dr. Adarsh Kumar Srivastav
Assistant Professor
SHS, CSJMU

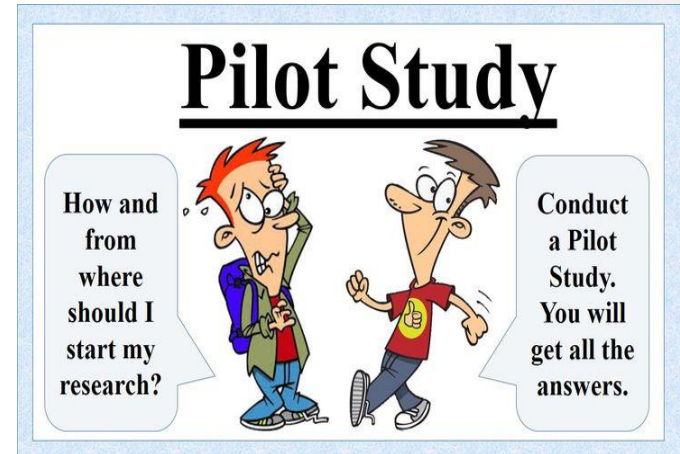


Background

- Process of **fine-tuning the system** you have planned for collecting information
- Consider **general strategies and precautions** for data collection
- **Expert advice are not** substitutes for well organized pilot work; (Oppenheim,1966)

Aim of pilot study

- To identify **potential problems** in the data collection and to show that the study design is both **appropriate and feasible**
- Give some idea of the **costs of the study** as well as **experience in carrying out** the project
- Useful when **not completely familiar** with the procedures or techniques involved



- *Treece (1977)* have defined the pilot study as 'a small **preliminary investigation** of the same general character as the major study, which is designed to acquaint the researcher with problems that **can be corrected** in preparation for the large research project

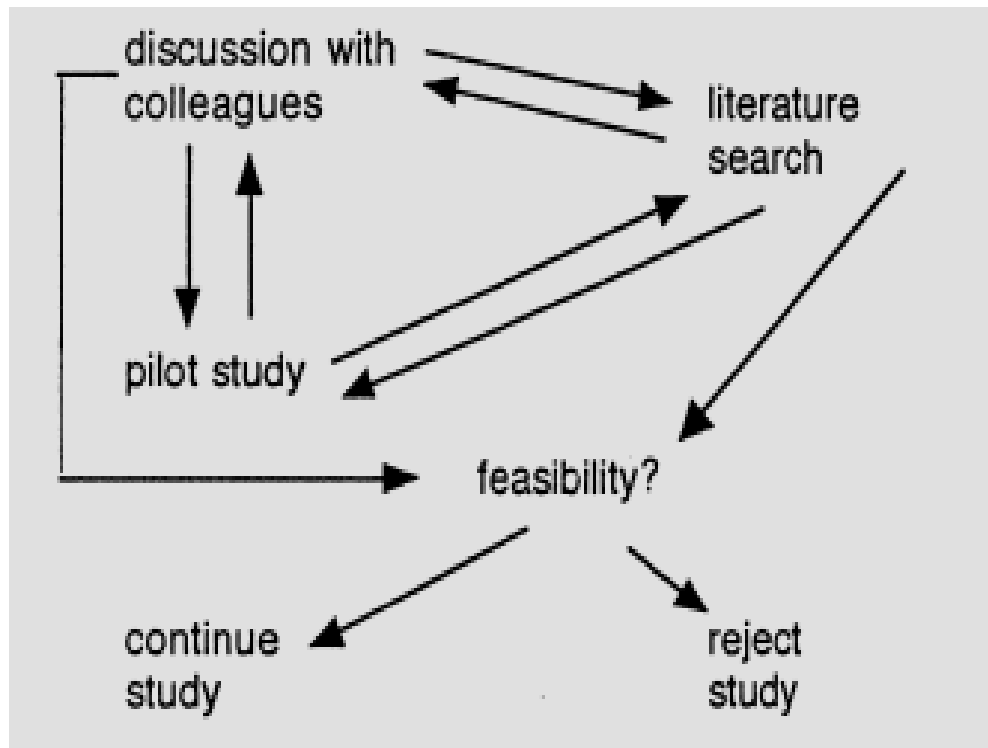
“Small-scale trial of the research you are undertaking”

- The group of subjects used for the pilot study **must be as similar** as possible to the group you wish to study
- Subjects who will be taking part in the main project should not be involved in the pilot study: it could be argued that they would modify their answers with **practice and would have an advantage** over other subjects who have no previous knowledge of the questionnaire

- Some questions are not answered
- Subjects misunderstand a question
- All subjects record the same response to a question
- The questionnaire takes much longer to complete by subjects than was anticipated
- The costs are much higher than anticipated

How much?

- Treece and Treece (1977) suggest a **guideline of 10% of the intended study sample**
- The pilot study alone **will not identify all the flaws** in a potential study
- It is the combination of the pilot study with a sound knowledge of the **relevant literature and discussion with experienced colleagues** that will eliminate the obvious problems.



- **One final word of warning** : be careful of contamination when conducting a pilot study.
- You need to be careful that the pilot study does not alter the situation you are attempting to assess.

- Problems identified in the pilot study **must be set right before moving on.**
- Ideally if there are major changes made to the study you should **carry out a further pilot study** using the amended design and research tools .

- **Differences between undertaking a pilot study and a feasibility study**
- **Thabane et al (2010)** indicates that the aim of a pilot study is to evaluate the **sustainability of a planned study and avoid problems that could arise** when the large-scale study is conducted.
- Conduct of a **small version of a larger/main study to determine if all the components** of the study will work together

- **Feasibility study** is undertaken to determine if the design, instrumentation and analysis are practicable and is important in the development of the main study to highlight aspects such as participant preparedness to be recruited, randomised, and their receptiveness to follow-up measures (Abbott, 2014).

Feasibility Study	Pilot Study
Broad assessment of the overall viability of the study	Detailed testing of specific aspects of the study design and procedures
Focuses on practical aspects like resources, recruitment, and ethical issues.	Focuses on methodological aspects like data collection, measurement tools, and procedures.
Conducted earlier in the planning phase to decide if the study should proceed.	Conducted after the feasibility is established to refine and optimize the study design.
Decides whether to proceed with the study , often suggesting changes to improve feasibility	Provides insights and data to refine and improve the study design and methodology.

- A feasibility study differs from a pilot study in that a feasibility study tries out pieces of the study, whereas the pilot study tries out the operation of all pieces as they will be implemented in the planned study (National Institute for Health Research, 2012)

THANK YOU